Sample Questions for Level 2 Bridle, Harness and Saddle

Level 2 Bridle

1. State two consequences of using inappropriate fittings in the production of bridle components. Difficult to fasten buckles and billets, damage to leather.

2. State the leather type needed to produce a running martingale. 3.5 – 4mm bridle butt.

3. Given that four bridles must be cut from one bridle butt, indicate by numbering on the diagram of the butt provided where the best areas would be for cutting (a) reins (b) headpiece (c) other components.

a) Reins from the edge nearest the spine (length permitting).
b) Headpiece, cut so the cheek and throat straps come from the best end and the throat latch runs towards the shoulder end.
c) Other components, all other parts of the butt monitoring the strips near the shoulder end and belly edge.

4. How can faults in leather affect the product quality? May be stretchy or prone to break. Surface may crack or colour may be inconsistent.

5. List three consequences of incorrect storage of leather. Misshapen and therefore difficult to cut even strips. Discoloration causing uneven colouring across the bridle. Unusable as it may crack or break.

6. Explain how you would examine a buckle before use. Visually inspect and feel or touch.

7. What could the consequences be for a saddler from using faulty fittings? Complaint from customer, liable to prosecution claim, reputation tarnished.

8. Name two factors which determine the choice of thread size. Number of stitches to the inch and the stress that will be applied to that component.

9. Explain how you would examine a linen thread for faults before use. Visually and feel or touch.

10. State three causes of irregular stitching. Irregular prick marking, wrong size awl, inconsistent use of the awl, inconsistent tensioning of the thread.

11. State three precautions you would take in order to minimise wastage when cutting bridle components. Make sure you have all of the necessary specifications, draw up a cutting list, examine the leather to be used beforehand. Prepare the cutting area and all tools beforehand.

Level 2 Harness

1. State the leather type needed to produce a pair of breeching straps. Harness back or bridle butt.

2. Which area of a butt / back is the weakest and why? The area nearest the shoulder and belly edge. This has less substance and is more likely to stretch.

3. State two consequences of using inappropriate fittings in the production of harness components. Difficult to fasten buckles, damage to leather, accident caused by breakage.

4. How do faults in leather affect the product quality? May be stretchy or prone to break, surface may crack or colour may be inconsistent.

5. List three consequences of incorrect storage of leather. Misshapen, discoloration, unusable as it may crack or break.

6. List two causes of manufacturing faults in harness fittings. Badly fitted tongues, sharp edges, poor casting.

7. Describe the function of a crupper and dock. To stop the gig saddle moving forward and hold the hip strap in the correct position.

8. What thread size would you use to stitch 8 stitches to the 1”? 4 cord 18

9. Name two factors which determine the choice of thread size. Number of stitches to the inch and the stress that will be applied to that component.

10. State three causes of irregular stitching. Irregular prick marking, wrong size awl, inconsistent use of the awl, inconsistent tensioning of the thread.

11. Why does harness component size impact on production time? The amount of labour needed to produce the harness.

12. State three precautions you would take in order to minimise wastage when cutting harness components. Make sure you have all of the necessary specifications, draw up a cutting list, examine the leather to be used beforehand. Prepare the cutting area and all tools beforehand.

Level 2 Saddle

1. List the safety precautions to take when cutting leather. Keep knivee sharp, keep the area clean and tidy, hold securely, keep your other hand behind the knife.

2. From which part of the flap butt would you cut the skirts and flaps? Flaps with the lower (bottom of the flap) edge along the spine, skirts from along the belly edge.

3. How can faults in leather affect the product quality? May be stretchy or prone to break, surface may crack or colour may be inconsistent.

4. List three consequences of incorrect storage of leather. Misshapen, discoloration, unusable as it may crack or break.

5. State three causes of irregular stitching. Irregular prick marking, wrong size awl, inconsistent use of the awl, inconsistent tensioning of the thread.

6. What should be checked about the tree before work commences? Symmetry of tree and stirrup bars, levelness, sharp edges on wood, steel or rivets.

7. State the two key points to consider when producing a flap pattern. Shape and depth/length.

8. Explain how to correctly dispose of paper waste. Store securely on site and then regularly dispose of at the local authority waste recycle area.

9. State the desirable thickness and properties of leather suitable for:

   a) A panel 1.5mm thick approx. Soft and pliable.
   b) A girth strap 4mm-4.5mm thick approx. Strong, flexible and not prone to stretch.
   c) A skirt or flap 3.5mm approx. Good substance and grain, colourfast.